THE HISTORIE OF Titana, and Theſeus.

VERIE PLEASANT FOR AGE TO auoyd drowſie thoughts: profitable for youth to eſchew wanton paſtimes: ſo that to both, it brings the mindes content.

Written by W. B.

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TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVLL,

Humphrie Conisbie: VV. B. wisheth all ioy, and happinesse, in this world, and in the world to come, life euerlasting.

RIght Worshipfull (euer since my childish yeares, were adopted, with that mutuall sence of seeing, and imbolned with your fauourable smiles; I presumed to suruey the manyfolde fauours, that I found written in the Margent of your loue; (which seeing) I find my selfe so deep'y indebted to your Worship, that although I should indeuour my selfe euen to the last gaspe, yet were it impossible for me to deserue, or make you restitution for the least of them: but as heeretofore I still presume on your kindnesse, presenting your worship, the frownes of Fortune, so rudely and roughly polished, that I feare you will smile with *Alexander* at the crooked deformitie of *Vulcan*: yet sometimes the minde is as well pleased to heare of *Pans* homely fancies, as of *Hercules* renowned labours; *Homer* write verses as well on *Irus* the Beggar, as *Eurimachus* the Woer: *Apollo* giues Oracles as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich for his treasure: *Darius* as well receiued the rough vnpolisht coullers of *Mison*, as the curious pictors of *Apelles*. Therefore I beseech you, to shroud this imperfect Pamphlet, vnder your Worships patronage: assuring my selfe that your Worships learned education, and vertuous dispositi-on, will be a sufficient defence to protect me from the enuious tongues of the schorning Sicophants, and hoping as *Iupiter* and his Sonne, vouchsafed to lie in *Philemons* poore Cottage: so

The Epiſtle Dedicatorie.

I hope your Worſhip will excuſe my ſlender skill, and except of my willing minde, and when you haue giuen them a fauourable view, with *Minerua* vnder your golden Target couer a deformed Owle, ſo hoping for more then yet I haue deſerued, I reſt: wiſhing you the happie ſucceſſe of harts content, where I leaue you to the Heauens diſpoſing.

Your Worſhips moſt dutifull
and euer bounden W. Bettie.

THE HISTORIE of Titana, and Theſeus.

IN *Greece*, there dwelt a mightie King, called Aegeus, who had raigned fiftie yeares; fortunate, and ſucceſſiue in all his warlike affaires: that through the puiſſance of his force to his foes, and bountifull curtiſie, to his friends; he was feared in hate, and imbraced in loue. This Aegeus had one onely Sonne, whoſe name was Theſeus, who was by birth Royall, learned by education, by Nature valorous, and by Vertues famous: in ſo much that it was hard to iudge whether his Valour, Fortune, or Vertue, wonne the greateſt praiſe.

This young Prince, being ſo richly adorned with the rare feats, and accompliſhments of Chiualrie, that he did not only enioy his Fathers loue, but alſo wonne his Subiects harts: at that inſtant, there liued Meleagar, King of Acchaia, not farre diſtant from the Court of Aegeus, who had a Daughter, a faire young Virgin, whoſe name was Titana, her vertuous diſpoſitions were ſuch, as might iuſtly challenge more loue, then the world could yeld her: for her beautie was ſuch, as it tainted Venus chaires, her vertue ſhadowed Dianaes Altars, her learning ſtayned ſacred Pallas, & her loyaltie was

ſuch as it quite ſurpaſt Penelope: how can the world then extoll theſe excellent gifts of Nature, to the high ſphære of their deſerts, being ſo exquiſitly limitted, and ſo louingly applauded by their Subiects reports, but by committing them, to thoſe glittering creatures, enclosed within the ſpangled ſkies, where wæle leaue them to the Heauens diſpoſing, and turne to Meleagar her father: who in his youth had bæne brought vp with Aegeus, and was his Schoole-fellow; ſo as they had bæne Schoole-fellowes in their youth, they remained louing Neighbours in their age, maintaining courſe, and recourſe, to and fro each others Courts, vpholding golden amitie, with the pillars of Brotherly loue, which did not only reioyce the Acchaians, but alſo augment the *Grecians* loue, with ſuch inordinate, and extreame paſſions, that euery yeare, vpon the Kings Coronation day, the people throughout all *Greece*, and *Acchaia*, held a generall feaſt, for the ſpace of fortie daies, with Iuſts, and Turnies, with Running, Wreſtling, Leaping, and Dauncing, with Bonfires, ringing of Bells, and ſuch like pleaſant paſtimes: not onely to honour their two Kings, but alſo to ſhew their inward ioy, by their outward actions: as well to ſhewe their Kings, their royall deſerts, as their loyaltie, being Subiects. When this ſolemne Triumph was quite ended, the people returned vnto their former labour, and wonted courſe of life, where wæle leaue them, & turne to Theſeus: who though but young in yeares, yet old in experience, though valorous with Hercules, yet not too venturous with Phaeton; though vpheld with the wings of Fortune, yet not raſh in flying with Icarus, but keeping lower bounds with Dedalus; has feared not the Thunderbolts of Ioue, nor yet the raging waues of Neptune: (well to be briefe:)

Theſeus, who had euer ſince he was able to harbour, or conceiue one amorous thought, markt the excellencie of Titanaes behauiour, and the exquiſitie of her beautie, perſwaded himſelfe that ſhe was matchleſſe on earth: in ſo much, that at

laſt

laſt he fell into paſſionate affections with Titana; and burſt out his paſſions in theſe tearmes, being alone in a garden, ſitting vnder an Orenge Tree:

Ah Theſeus thou that art a Kings ſonne, and art applauded by the *Greekes*, to be the only champion of this climat, and wilt thou liue a ſlaue to Venus, confind and bard of libertie? no, no, caſt of theſe fooliſh affections; for Theſeus, ſurely thou doſt not loue, theſe are but inſtant conceits, ſweetned with hony, or fire made with ſtraw, they are not Amors of perfection.

Ah Theſeus, flatter not thy ſelfe, thy heart doth feele the deadly wound of Cupids Darte: Oh, that blinde boy hath pierſt it cleane through, like an Indian pearle: yet be chearfull Theſeus, what needſt thou feare, thou knowſt the ſalue to cure thy amorous corſiue; Titana, is a Kings Daughter, and ſhe is by birth Royall, learned by education, faire by Nature, by vertues famous, and by poſſeſſions rich: why then what needſt thou feare, caſt off theſe diſpayring follies, and put on aſſuring fancies, for Cupid never throwes his Dart, but Venus ſlakes the wound: why then Theſeus, art thou a Prince, and a valiant Souldier, and wilt liue thus perplexed with fooliſh loue, or a wound giuen by a Boy, expell ſuch capitall follies, as would include thee with ignominious conceite: when he had thus ſufficiently explained his paſſions, & ſearcht the deepeneſſe of his ſtill bleeding wounde, he takes his farwell of the Orenge Tree, that ſhaddowed him from the beames of Phœbus, & returnes to his chamber, where weele leaue him ruminating on his loue, and turne to Titana: Who all this while, euen from her infancie, had noted the princely geſture of Theſeus, & ſeing his face ſo perfectly featurde, and viewing each lim, the portraiture of his body ſo well limmitted, that ſhe greatly commended Dame Natures art, and excellencie in ſhaddowing ſuch perfection vnder her Fortunes lot; perſwading her ſelfe, that none but Theſeus ſhould reape the hereſt of her affection: being thus perplexed with inordinate paſſions, and poſſeſt with amorous affection, it wrote like a pur-

gation with her, in so much that at last she brake her passions in these tearmes.

Ah Titana, (thou art in loue) (I) with whom? with Theseus, (with Theseus,) he is a Kings sonne, why so art thou a Kings Daughter; he is famous by birth; thou art vertuous, and faire by Nature; hee is a Prince; why thou art a Princesse: thou euery way art equiuolent with him: (why thou) if thou louest Theseus, Theseus cannot chuse but loue Titana: Ah Titana, thou fond foole, sigh, sob, and lament thee of thy follies, art thou so fond to thinke that Theseus being a valiant warrier, the *Grecians* champion, and heire apparant to that inuincible King Aegeus; will looke on thee: no, thou art not an obiect, fitting for his expectiue eye, though thy vertuous qualities, be opposite to his vallorous accomplishmēts, yet he cannot loue Titana: why? Titana is beautifull, vertuous, and rich, I, & after her Fathers decease heire to the Crowne of rich Acchaia: why then Titana, suppresse these franticke passions, and incline to louely affections, for doe thou but smile, he cannot chuse but loue: well when shee had thus at large, playd, and displayd her passionate affection, she returnes to her chamber, to be melancholy, where weele leaue her.

Theseus, who had receiued such a deadly wound, thought it long vntill he had some remedie for it, starts him vp, from the imbracements of his restlesse bed, and walkes towards the Court of Meleager: euen at his approach within the Court gates, the clocke struck eight: quoth Theseus, it is too earely daies to seeke to speake with Titana yet; Ile goe walke a course or too about the Garden till the clocke strikes aguine, and that I thinke will be about the time of Titanaes riūng he immediately turnes on the backe side of the Court, to enter into the Garden, but when he came hee found the doore fast lockt: yet Fortune willing to fauour his pretence, would not suffer him to returne, but caused him to knocke, the which hee did, and immediatly it was opened by a Groome of Titanaes chamber: quoth Theseus, where is your Lady and mistris,

stirring

stirring yet: quoth the Groome, and shall please your Highnes, she sits alone at the further end of the Garden, a reading; with that Theseus cast vp his eye, and espied his lovely Paramour: walking in the Garden vnknowne of Titana, he stept into a greene Arbour, which stood directly opposite against her, and not farre distant from her, where he first viewed each limmit, or proportrature of her bodie; and then beganne he to breake his passions: Ah Theseus: (ecce) see how her crimson lips, stands like two Pilgrimes, to adorne those vermilli-an cheekes of hers, which like as the Adamant drawes the steele, so they drawe thee to love: Nay behold her christall eies how like to vnestimable Diamonds, they glitter and give light to the out-chanted Cinthia: now last of all, see how farre her twined lockes doth surpasse the Arabian gold, in golden beautie: when he has thus breathed out his passions in these passionate tearmes; he stands a while commenting in this dull perplexitie, yet at last beginnes to prosecute his passions with these tearmes.

Theseus, thou seest her excellencie, perfection, and beautie, why then make a mixture with those, and thy intire love, and drinke them as a princely potion, either to cure, or kill, and so shalt thou be sure to be eased by death, else cured to life, for in love there is life in hate there is death, but Titanas face, resembles an Adamants vertue, to draw love by affection, and not kill Love with reiecting, (and more) it is impossible, that she should couer a flinty heart, with a smiling face, for I know the vertue of Venus mollifies the heart of Titana: why then Theseus what needst thou feare, shew thy selfe as valiant a Prince to Titana, as thou hast done in former time to Mars, and returned victor of the field, when thou wast beset with millions of foes, and will thou now feare the repulse of a woman, and bring thy love to? no thou shalt scale the walls and lay batterie to the fairest: and with that hee steps out of the Arbour with a modest behauiour, and full resolution, takes her by the hand, and withall dimples his cheekes, with a love-

lie ſmile, as loue giues louers direction: (and thus beginnes). Faire Titana, euer ſince I could conceiue one Amorous thought, or caſt a wanton eye on beauties perfection, I haue remained imburthened with the eſſence of your beautie, and wounded with the vicerous ſore of your loue: therefore, faire Lady reiect me not with diſdaine, becauſe I approach with curteſie: and as our two aged Fathers liues in peacefull amitie, ſo let vs combine a monumentall vnitie, it will not onely be a comfort to them, but alſo an eternall ioy to vs: Titana reſting, and meditating a while, at laſt bepaints her cheekes with a maiden bluſh, and thus replies.

Prince Theſeus, this is very ſtrange to me, that ſuch inordinate paſſions of loue, ſhould ſo farre ouerflow her ſhores on the ſudden, being no ſtorme nor ſpring to be the cauſer: therefore Theſeus, ſurely this is not loue, theſe are but fained fictions to trie ſimplicitie: inluring baits, to catch fond folly in wanton ſnares: for Demophoon was faire by nature, but proued falſe to Phillis: Aeneas was a braue man, but as falſe as Almider: yet were their protected vowes, greater then common hearts can conceiue: Therefore Theſeus ſuppreſſe thy paſſions, and leaue to loue Titana, for ſhe cannot loue thee againe, ſhe is like the ſtarre Artophilax, that is beautious to the eye, but fit for no vſe, euen ſo is Titana, iuſt oppoſite againſt Nature: well ſtill ſhe keepes him at the ſtaffes length, and ſits her ſtill on the greene bancke where he found her; ſhadowing her yeelding paſſions with denying frownes.

Theſeus, who all this while had markte, and viewed each limmit of her body, and the feature of her face, thought it very ſtrange, that Nature ſhould indow ſo faire a face, with ſo hard a heart, ſuch comely limmits, with ſuch peruerſe conditions: at laſt thus beganne to proſecute his cauſe againe in theſe tearmes.

Faire Titana, bee not proude of beauties painting, for it is but a Summers flower, the Winter fades it, and thoſe which diſdaine in youth, are deſpiſed in age: therefore faire Lady,

make

make not a Goddesse of beautie, but yéeld me loue, for loue, and let not the destinies cause me to dispaire, now in the verdencie of my blooming youth. Titana sitting still on ỹ banck, (as it were) not regarding him, thus beginnes. Theseus I commend thine exceeding wit, but in this case, I pittie thy distresse, and for the extremitie of loue thou beareſt to me, I vow thée recompence; but with contract I dare not promise, therefore good Theseus, suppresse thois passions, which now thy minds perplexed with.

Theseus standing a while, commenting in this dull perplexitie, scarcely dared vouchsafe to giue an answere, or demaund a remedie, yet saide hée, opportunities neglected are signes of follies, therefore he beganne againe in these tearmes.

Titana, the fatall doubts of cruell death, is not so feared of me, but I dare extend my life with fortunes fate, to enioy thy loue: why then faire Lady, sith I am so wounded with your loue, yéeld to my requeſt, which is within the bounds of modestie desired: If I were lascivious, demaunding vnchaſt desires, to vse thée as a Concubine, then mightest thou iustly be peruerse & say me nay: or were I a Begger, or a base borne vassell, of no desert, or reputation vile, then would I holo it wisdome: or came I like a Scithian Shepheard, with my chærcroke on my neck: But comming like a *Grecian* Prince, with my Scepter in my hand, demanding loue with a chaſt deuotion, mée-thinks you should not be so peruerse, to denie so kind a demaund. Quoth Titana, good Theseus be not so tedious, for to be short in tearmes, I will not grant thée loue; for loue is the only thing I hate, therefore trouble me no more with such frinolous spæches, if you please to accompany mée, as in former time you haue done, you shall be ỹ welcommeſt man in *Greece*: but if you replie with such like spæches as loue, I rather desire your absence, then your presence.

Theseus hearing her still in that froward denying vaine, quite expeld hope, and included dispaire: and thus beganne he,

he, which ſcarcely found beginning. O wicked and diſpairing wretch: forlorne, and of Tirana forſaken, worſe then the ſeruiſh ſlaue in *Achaia*, more baſe then the ſlimie earth vnderneath thy feete: more in bondage, then Tuniſſian gally ſlaues, more vacent on earth, then *Indians* in *Arabia*, and more wretched then Progne in her tranſformation: why how canſt thou thus metamorphoſed, being a Kings ſonne? (oh with loue) with loue, of that ingrateſull Tirana, for had I not loued Tirana, ſhe had not cauſed my vntimely death, but meaſuring my aduerſe fortune, with thy peruerſe obſtinacie, Ile end my life: and with that he vnſheaths his fatall Engine and ſayd thus: Faire Lady, as like ỹ Cymbian, I haue liued by the Ayrie eſſence of thy loue: ſo like faithfull Theſeus by thy hate ile die: Hee ſets the point of his ſword to his breſt. Tirana ſeeing him ſo deſperate, lightly ſkipt from off the bancke whereon ſhe ſate, and ſuddenly takes him by the hand which held his ſword, and thus beganne.

Theſeus, art thou a Prince, and a Kings ſonne, a warrior, and *Grecians* Champion: and wilt at a wenches frowne ruine thy body, and bring thy aged Fathers grayhaires, with griefe vnto his graue, and lay his careſull head, on a reſtleſſe pillow? remember this, thou art heire apparant vnto thy Fathers Crowne, and Kingdome; and by thy well liuing, thy Fathers daies are prolonged on earth, but by thy ill dying, with griefe they are ſone ended: why then know this braue Theſeus, wenches will moſt denie, the thing they moſt deſire; & ſeeme moſt peruerſe, where moſt they loue; and proue moſt conſtant, where they ſeeme moſt wauering (and ſo will I, my loue) although I ſained a frowne, yet deteſted I to hate, and though my tongue ſayd no, my heart proteſted I. Therefore ſweete Theſeus, impute me not peruerſe, for the heauens knowes, I ſhame to expreſſe, how proude I haue borne of Theſeus loue, yet would I not ſay Theſeus I loue thee: becauſe then thou mighſt repute me immodeſt, being a Lady, but the Gods doth know, I haue honoured Theſeus with a

zealous

zealous devotion, and I loued Theseus with as dutifull affection, as Titana could performe, or Theseus desire: therefore sweete love, thinke not I yeild with vrgent prayers, but with the force of love.

Theseus noting her behaviour, and hearing such vnexpected tearmes, and sugred allurements of Titana, which made such pleasing harmony in his halfe dead eares, was halfe ravished, & wholy reviued to his former sences: sheathed his fatall blade againe, imbracing her in his armes, layd battery to her skarlet lips, with many a sugred kisse he gives assault and winnes the Fort: In briefe, they suddenly combind, and fully accomplisht a monumentall contract, so that after many lovely imbracings, and pleasing wanton toyes, (as love hath many) they parted for y time, so fraught with inordinate joy, that it is impossible for the capacitie of man to looke so high as their joy did raise rebounds.

Fortune now envying their good acts, turnes her Wheele, and as she had dimpled her cheekes, so now she wrinckled her forehead, and brecled the destinies, for in *Acchaia* there dwelt Oenie, which every yeere did sacrifice the firstlings of his froze: the which he first assigned of his corne, and fruits to Ceres: to Bacchus the first pressing of his wine: and vnto Pallas Olliffe-oyle, and thus honouring the Gods of graine, and fruite, hee offered franckinsence, but at Dianaes Altars none was offered, hee over-slipt them, the which Diana tooke in high disdaine, & sayd, he shall not skape vnpunished, though he past mine Altars vnworshipped, nor vaunt of his escape vnrevenged, if I be a Goddesse ile plague him and his fruits, and with that away she flies: and on the next morne she sent a huge over-grown Boare to Oenies ground, such as the like had never yet beene seene. This greedy Boare devoured his Corne, and grasse, and rent his Vines vnto the ground: and not so sufficed but beganne to over-runne, and devoure the Countrie of *Acchaia*? in so much that the husbandman had laboured in vaine, he over-runne their Lambs, sheepe, and

Heards of Kie, nay men, weomen, and children, went daily in danger, of this orped swines dreadfull Tushes.

In so much, that the people of *Achaia* preferred supplications to Aegeus, Meleagar, and Theseus, and many other Kings Dukes, Lords, and Knights, to desire their ayde to conquer this mercilesse Hogge: the which they all were very willing and affable, but Theseus: yet he saide I, although he could haue wisht it no: for the reason that moued him rather to haue stayed at home, then haue gone was this: he was newly returned from his loue Titana, and they had both agreed to make their Fathers acquainted with their loues on the next day following, which was the day appointed; that this Princely knot should meete and accompany each other, to the face, of the Achaians foe: Theseus very much discontent with this newes, could haue fained himselfe sicke, and staide at home, but his heart was so enobled with valour, that it would suffer excuse to take no place: hee seeing no remedie, but goe he must, being that renowned King Meleagar, with his royall troopes of valiant Knights, accompanied with his Father Aegeus were come, he like Iason, when he ventured for Medea, or Hercules for Deianita, or like Turnus, before he went to his bloudie fight, armed and Enobled himselfe with valour: which done, hee accompanied this Princely knot of noble Knights, euen to the very brincke of his owne aduerse Fortune, where weele leaue him vnreeling the destinies, and turne to Meleagar the causer of his griefe: who being vpholden with the wings of Fortune, reaped the plentuous Haruest, of a renowned encounter, by the winning a famous victorie. Meleagar with the rest of valiant Knights, threw his luckie Darke against this orped swine, who being more potent with Fortunes fauour then impotent with Dianaes frowne, gaue this Boore his deadly wound: this being done, though old in yeares, yet young in conceit, for with pride meerely, of his fortunate stroake, he presently fell into amorous teakes, with Atalant, Schoenies Daughter of *Tegea*:

and

and suddenly stepping to the Swine, said thus:

Oh Lady *Atalant*,
receiue thou this my fee:
And of my glorie, vouch thou safe,
partaker for to bee.

And with that gaue her the head of the Swine.

THis Ladie for the giuers sake was as glad in heart, as for the gift, and receiued it very thankfully: but the rest repinde that she such honour had, and armes displayd, that all the field might easily see, and heare, their murmuring discontent: Plexippus, and Toxey cried: Dame, lay downe this geare, doe we take the toyle, and thou the honour of our Game? no, nor let that faire smooth face of thine beguile thee, least be that being doated in thy loue, and giuing thee our fee, be ouerfarre to rescue thee: and with that word they toke the gift away from her, and right of gift from him.

Quoth Meleagar, with a sterne and fierce loking countenance, you Thessies race, learne this from me, and doe not other folkes dispoyle of honour giuen, for Princes gifts are free, of none to be reiected: and Princes wils are lawes, of none to be b'urped. Therefore Plexippus, what difference is betwixt your threats and deedes, lie with this weapon trie: & with that he suddenly strikes him through the brest with his Boare speare. Toxey seeing his brother slaine, stood doubting what way to take, desiring to reuenge his Brothers blood, yet fearing to be murthered as his Brother was before, stood amazedly commenting: Meleagar, to dispatch his doubtfull muses, drew his fatall sword and slew him for company of his Brother Plexippus, whose blood was hardly cold as yet.

This bloudie prospect bred such a mutinie amongst them, that their armes displayd on both sides, in so much that the two houses, Meleagar and Aegeus, fell to a ciuill discension, and much bloud was spilt on both sides: and not onely these two

houſes of Meleagar, and Aegeus, but almoſt all *Greece*, *Acchaia*, and *Calidon* was in an vproare, for each toke armes againſt other, and being renowned and famous Princes, friends toke parts, and they beganne to bandie, and ouerrunne each others Dominions.

This diſagreement betweene the Parents, although it was a heart breaking to theſe two louers, Titana, and Theſeus, yet did it not at all diſparage their affection, but the greater the mutinie, the deper was the impreſſion of their mindes, and by this meanes their libertie was confinde, and meeting places quite debard, yet loue being a priuie ſearcher of ſecrets, found a time and opportunitie, which gaue them place, time, and leaue to parle, to play and diſplay each others mindes: when theſe two louers came together, they were in feare, and danger to be eſpied, which cauſed them one while, to ſighe, ſobbe, lament, and grieue; another while, kiſſe, ſmile, laugh, and toy: and thus they ſpent the time as pleaſantly as diſtreſſed louers could doe, yet they ſware to each other, ỹ their Fathers diſſention ſhould neuer ſeperate their loues, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh their affections, but would remaine ioyfull vnto death, in deſpite of the hatefull deſtinies: hauing thus recounted each others loues to their hearts content, yet ſeeing they could not enioy the full fruition of their loues in *Greece*, nor *Acchaia*. Theſeus determined aſſone as time and opportunitie gaue him leaue, to prouide a maſſe of mony, and Iewells for the eaſier cariage: and ſo tranſport themſelues into *Spaine*, to Tunis: and there to liue a contented life, not knowne, but as a *Grecian* Knight, vntill he heard of ſome vnited peace betwixt their Fathers, elſe by ſucceſſion to enioy their Kingdomes: Titana hearing his determinate courſe, commended highly his wittie deuice, (and ſayd thus) Faire loue, if thy father Aegeus ſhould take me within his preſincke it were death, or at leaſt perpetuall impriſonment, and againe on the other ſide, if my father Meleagar, ſhould take thee in his Dominions, it were the like danger for thee to

come

come into. But if my Father should heare of this contract, his fury would be such, that ẏ tortorous death were to easie for vs both, first you for presumption, then I for simplicitie, and so we shall bite both on the destinies bridle. Therefore sweete Theseus, make hast with all expedition, & prouide all things fitting for our Voyage, for delay breeds danger, and false Fortune despite. Theseus being fraught with boundlesse ioy, and prickt forward with loues desire, did protest vnto her assoone as opportunitie gaue him leaue, he would prouide such necessaries as were fitting for their Voyage, so resting vpon this resolution, and night beginning to listen to their complement: after many imbracings, payed, and repayed kisses they parted. Theseus hauing taken the leaue of his best beloued Titana, returnes him backe againe to his fathers Court: which being there arriued, cald vnto him, an ancient Seruant of his fathers, whose name was Iunia: this Iunia being a faithfull Seruant, and Theseus approued friend, he thought him not lesse then fitting to imploy about this his secret pretence. Theseus deposing confident trust in him, declared the whole volume of his minde vnto him, from the beginning to the end: Iunia, hearing him so fully bent, and determinately resolued on this imparfet course: beganne to diswade, or diuert him to the contrarie, aleadging diuers instant inconueniences: Theseus being so determinate in his pretence beganne to reiect Iunia for his folly in diswading him, and told him he did not call nor disclose his minde vnto him, to aske his aduise, or to be intercepted by him, but the cause he had him there present, was this, he did depose trust vnto him, and impose this secret busines on him, to prouide a small barke, or Pinnis to transport them into *Spaine*, with monies and certaine Iewells and such like commodities for the easier cariage: which if he could prouide and make readie against such a time hee would reward him royally for his paines.

Iunia hearing this, that there was no perswasion would take effect, or instant examples to the contrarie diuert him,

and withall reſpecting the Princes bountifull promiſe began to yeeld vnto him, and in the end promiſed him to prouide all things readie for their Voyage within the ſpace of fortie daies at the furtheſt. Theſeus hearing this direct anſwere and promiſe of Iunia, was exceedingly fraught with ioy, in ſo much, that to ſhew his bountie, and binde him vnto his promiſe, he ſent him away very richly rewarded, where wee leaue him prouiding for the Voyage, and turne to Meleagar.

Fortune, who had alreadie layde her traine, ſo deſtinated, that it vtterly brake the vnited bands of theſe two Louers fathers combinde League, and almoſt to the ſeparating of their loue, with heart-breaking: yet not ſo content, intending as ſhe had giuen them a ſlender checke, ſo now ſhe ſhould giue them a cruell blow; and to bring her pretence to be managed with perfection, ſhe layd her plot in this wiſe.

Meleagar, walking priuately in his Garden, commenting on his Daughter Titana, brake out his paſſions in theſe tearmes; Meleagar, thou haſt but one onely Daughter, and ſhe is now about the yeares of 23. and ſhe is a Prince ſo richly deckt, and adorned with the gifts of Nature, ſo fraught with beautie, and vertuous qualities, that ſhe is not onely a comfort to thee, but alſo a ioy to thy poore Commons: why then, place all thy ioy in her perfection, and ſith ſhe is now marriageable, prouide her a huſband that is equiualent with her: when he had thus paſſioned a while, he ſate him downe vnder a Pomitherne Tree, to meditate on whom he might beſtow his Daughter Titana: till at laſt, he called to minde great Ambroſa, king of *Portugal*, who in former time had bin brought vp together for the ſpace of ſeauen yeares in Schoole: and knowing this Ambroſa to haue a Sonne, whoſe name was Piriſmus, who was faire by Nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, and by poſſeſſions rich: preſently ſends Embaſſadors to the King of *Portugall*, to intreate a marriage betwixt his Daughter Titana, and his Sonne Piriſmus. Ambroſa hearing this, was exceedingly fraught with ioy and

told

told the Embassadors, it was his decree before they came, to haue sent to their King Meleagar, concerning the same matter, but sith they were so happily come, he told them his naue was ready, and his Sonne Pirismus should along with them to *Calidon*, and if God did permit him, he would be there with them, within fortie dayes. The Embassadors hauing receiued their answere, and the Prince bourded his Fleete, the Marriners hoisted their maine sailes, weighed ancors, and halled into the deepe.

Fortune fauouring Theseus destinie, opens the windows of Aeolus, and giues them a full winde, which in a short space arriued them on the shores of *Acchaia*: being so fortunately arriued, they instantly retired to the Court with the young Prince Pirismus, and made report to Meleagar of Ambrosaes answere, and how he had sent his Sonne as a pledge in the meane while. When Meleagar heard that was Ambrosaes Sonne, he seemed very angrie they did not send him word of their comming, that he might haue receiued him in a more princelike manner, but seeing it was now too late, to recall what was past, he saluted him very submissiuely, and told him he was very sorie he knew not of his comming, for if he had, he would haue met him by ẏ way. Well after these, and such like words, Meleagar takes him about the middle, and leads him into his priuie Chamber, causing the Nobles to attend them, where as Titana sate a sowing. Quoth Meleagar, young Prince Pirismus, behold, there sits mine onely Daughter Titana, my chiefest ioy, and the originall cause of your Voyage hither, and if you please to acquaint your selfe with her you may. Quoth Pirismus, my noble Liege, wich your leaue elie not. Quoth Meleagar, young prince, you haue our leaue, to vse your pleasure. Quoth Pirismus with a low obeysance, thanks my noble Liege, and with that steps vnto Titana, takes her by the hand, and thus beginnes: Faire Lady, if a Pilgrime Prince, may vouchsafe so bold to be, as to preferre a rough vnpollisht touch, vnto those soft lips of

yours,

yours, without offence, my desire is accomplisht, other wise my sute is cold. Titana seeing hima stranger, and hearing such inordinate tearmes procéede from him, was halfe in a misdoubt that her father had brought him, to be a suter in a cause that was already ouerthrowne, and dammages recouered, yet hoping the best, though fearing the worst, with a low curtesie, she thus replies, noble Knight, as your request is small, it is the easier granted; againe, if I should by deniall refuse it, you might iustly appeach me foolish: with that he giues her a kisse, which she very thankfully receiued, and accompanied him vnto her father, the which did greatly reioyce the King, her father: by this time there was a table furnished with such cates, and dainties, as could at so small a warning be prouided. Meleagar sitting downe, caused Pirismus to sit on the same side which he sate on, and Titana to sit on the other side, right opposite against him, because they should take a ful view of each other, the which Pirismus did, in so much that her perfection dinted so deepe an impression in his heart, that none but Titana could satisfie, the Amor of Pirismus eye: when he was thus solemnly, and sumptuously feasted, and royally entertained; and so entertained, that if Ambrosa had béene there himselfe in person, hauing so small warning, they could not receiue him with more triumphant royaltie. After they had thus sufficiently past the day in sumptuous feasts, and banquets: the King gaue commaund he should be attended on to his lodging, & all his Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, and their followers appointed their lodgings, and attended also: which being done and all departed, Meleagar calls for Titana, and thus brake his minde vnto her.

Titana, my gray-haires sounds an alarum, and calls me to my graue: therefore actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance; thou art young, and I am old, my white haires are fading blossomes, and thy fresh coulors blooming flowers, mine preparing to die, and thine repairing to liue: (therefore Titana) I take care, and tell thée as a father,

hoping

hoping thou wilt giue eare, and obey as a Childe. The chiefe thing I haue taken care for, and desired, hath beene to see thee happily married before I die, or thou grow old.

Titana, hearing her fathers counsaile, and marking well his words, beganne to seele which way the winde sate, and at last perswaded her selfe in her opinion, as this, that her father had chosen this young Prince Piciſmus to be her spouse; fearing to displease her father, yet swearing and vowing not to forsake Theseus, made him this answere.

May it please your Grace, to giue me leaue to speake? Mooth Meleagar, we giue you free leaue. Mooth Titana, Sir, there is no greater bonde then dutie, nor no stricter law then Nature: for often disobedient youth, are despised in age, and Parents wills are lawes; therefore, rather then by denial, I should be appeached of disobedience, ile rest content to loue, although it bee the onely thing I hate: If it may please your Highnes to appoint whom I shall loue.

Meleagar hearing this vnexpected answere of his Daughter, and seeing how light she accounted of loue, beganne to bee very hot and chollericke, and with a frowning countenance, made her this hastie answere.

What Titana, canst thou not loue? why, doth the cinnicall passion of prone desires, ouercome thee with franticke rowardnesse, or peeuish peruersenesse? or doest thou thinke thy selfe a young Phœnix, that there is none to equall thee? Ah Titana, take heed, least high Pride, bring low pouertie; and young disobedience, aged repentance: the Tree Alpia wasteth not with fire, but withereth with dearth, and that which loue nourisheth not, hate perisheth.

Well, peeld Titana to thy Fathers perswasions, which may preuent all after perills; thou seest I am olde, and full of gray haires, daily walking on the brincke of my graue, ready to fall in euery houre, and thou heire apparant to my Crowne, after my decease, shalt succeede my Kingdome, in more triumphant Throne, then ere thy father Meleager did in his youngest yeares: knowing this, thou being young in yeares,

and ſcarce gouerneſſe of thine owne diſpoſitions, it would be a greater trouble, & a heauier burthen, to be ſo ouer-preſt with the charge of a whole Kingdome, to gouerne and looke to: therefore to helpe and eaſe thee of thy burthen, and increaſe thee with ioy, I haue choſen thee a husband heere, the Prince Piriſmus, thou ſawſt heere erewhile, he is a Prince, faire by nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, and by poſſeſſions rich: therefore if thou like Piriſmus, thou breedſt my content, and in louing him, thou ſhalt haue my loue, otherwiſe an euerlaſting hate.

Titana ſtanding a while, called to mind that Theſeus did purpoſe to take his Voyage to *Tunis* very ſhortly, where ſhee determined to arriue with him, and therefore ſhe thought it was as good for her to ſay ſhe loued him, and keepe her fathers good will, as ſay ſhe could not loue him, and haue his ill will: and againe, ſhe thought this, if ſhe ſhould be peruerſe and ſay him nay, it might be a meanes in her fathers anger, to make him ſuſpect, and mildoubt ſome other matters, and ſo looke more nearer vnto her, and ſo be a hinderance to her departure with Theſeus: therefore ſhee determined to yeild with words vnto her Fathers deſire, and thus beſpake him, with a low courteſie:

Father, I obey your commaund, as a child, hoping to enioy your loue as a Father: and if Piriſmus can loue Titana, Titana well loue Piriſmus; but pray father thinke not, but that I yeild with loue, and not with your perſwaſions: and pleaſe you to appoynt the nuptiall day, I will be readie to accompliſh what you pleaſe to impoſe on me.

Quoth Meleagar, now haſt thou wonne my heart, and ſhalt enioy my loue, Ile make thee rich by poſſeſſions, and happy by marriage, Ile indow thee with wealth, and Piriſmus with loue; I ioy to ſee thee toward, and hate to ſee thee peruerſe: now ſhall my gray-haires enioy a reſt, which long hath beene diſturbed with care; ſo after theſe, and many other ſuch like ſpeeches, he appointed her the nuptuall day, which ſhould be at Ambroſaes comming: Titana being mindfull of her true loue

Theſeus,

Theseus, was sorely troubled in minde, because her father had appointed the time within so short a space, she was fearefull that Theseus could not provide all things for their Voyage so soone, yet bearing it out with a good countenance, shee light pleasantly in the sight of her father, and determined, if things were not ready soone inough, she would faine some excuse, to prerogue the time: well for that time, they departed, and betooke them to their rest: on the morrow morning, Meleagar was stirring very early, and calls to him, his chiefe Admirall, and commaunds him to provide a Fleete of his chiefest Ships, and furnish them with men and Ordinance, and all things else fitting to receive a Prince; he being no lesse then willing to fulfill the Kings loyall determination, very speedily prepared all things fitting for their Voyage, take his Embassage of the King, and suddenly boarded the Naute, hoysted mayne sailes, weyghed anchors, and away they cut through the deepe, where weele leave them to the favour of the winde, and the Seas.

Meleagar, having sent his Embassadors for the King of *Portugall*, calls his Nobles, and chiefe Officers together, and told them, that the tenth day of that present moneth should be the Nuptiall day: and bad them proclaime a feast, Josts, and Turnies, and invite all their neighbour Princes, with the chiefe of his owne Dominions; and that it was Meleagars command and will, the Court gates should stand open, and receive all commers for the space of twentie daies; as well for the royall entertainment of Ambrosia, as for honour of his Countrie: his Nobles being no lesse then willing to further his pretence, very diligently according to the Kings commande, prepared all things in a readines: where weele leave them attending Ambrosiaes comming, and turne to Titana: who in the sight her new love Pirismus, seemed no lesse then fraught with the wanton feats of love, to leade that loyall sole into a purblind paradice, where in the end shee meant to leave him champing of Cupids bridle: and in her fathers sight, she seemed so abundant in her love, that she almost made

his gray-haires begins afreſh to bud, and blome forth youthfull bloſſoms againe, in ſo much that it is impoſſible to conceiue the inward ioy, that he receiued by their outward toying; and though ſhee forced her ſelfe to be ioyous and pleaſant in her fathers, and Piriſmus preſence, yet was ſhe forced to balefull melancholy, and hateſull griefe in their abſence: well, it happened that in few dayes after, there came newes to Meleagars Court, that Ambroſa was come within two dayes ſailing of *Calidon*, and by contraries winds forced to caſt anchor, and lie there for the winds returne. Meleagar hearing this newes, cauſed a Fleete of his beſt ſhips to be made readie; which being done, he himſelfe, and Piriſmus with others, boarded the Fleete, and Titana ſhould haue gone too, but the Seas vnwilling to croſſe her ſubmiſſe Loue, with aduerſe hate, cauſed a tempeſtious ſtorme to riſe, in ſo much that the very ſight of Neptunes frownes caſt her into a diſpairing feare, the which her father ſeeing, cauſed her to returne to the Court againe, and they tooke their Voyage towards Ambroſa, where wee le leaue them to their fortune, and turne to Titana againe.

Who being ſo long abſented from her loue Theſeus, and ſo often preſented with her hated Piriſmus, like a true Louer diſcontented, deſired to walke and ſit alone to meditate; on the back ſide of her fathers Pallace, there was a very large Garden, which had diuers dores to enter in at; this Garden was the place, where Theſeus did vſe to meete her, which place ſhe held moſt conuenient, and fit for her to paſſion out her griefes: when the after noone came, ſhe walked all alone into the Garden, vnto the wonted place where Theſeus was wont full often to imbrace her, with many louely kiſſes, hoping that the Gods ſeeing her diſtreſſe, would relieue her want, ſ as they had beene witneſſes to her vowes, ſo ſhe hopt they would be fauourers to her preſence: and thus walkt ſhe a while commenting in theſe dull perplexities, till at laſt, her paſſions were ſo forgot with her, ſhe could no longer ſuppreſſe them, but caſt her downe on a greene banck, and burſt out her

paſſions

passions in these tearmes.

Ah Titana, thou infortunate wretch, art thou a Kings Daughter, and line thus a slaue to Cupid? better wert thou a country wench, to enioy their louely pleasure; then a courtly mistrisse, thus wrapt in froward miserie: now maist thou see the destinies plague thee, for thy disobedience. Ah sigh Titana, draw drie those two christall fountains, from whence these pearled streames descends, to ouerflowe these tender cheekes of thine: loue Pirisмus, and in louing him thou louest thy selfe. Ah no, I dare not; Pirisмus no: tis Theseus, and none but Theseus shall haue my true loue: Ah fole that thou art, to fix so fondly; thou knowest Theseus is a *Grecian*, and *Greekes* thy fathers foes: then sticke to thy fathers election, and loue Pirisмus, for in louing him thou shalt enioy the worlds content. Ah no, I haue made my solemne vowes to Theseus, and will kepe them, tis not worldly content alone that I desire, but Theseus loue, the patron of my meditating thoughts, the Couch of my wearie ioyntures rest, and the Crowne of my earthetiall glory.

When shee had thus breathed forth her solitarie passions, from the grey morne, to the red euen, *Zephir* beganne to draw the melancholly curtaines of portendous night, which caused Titana to depart, which hauing taken her leaue of the Orenge, and Lemmon Trees, which onely did accompany her all that day, returnes to her chamber againe, where she immures her selfe in contemplation.

It hapned that in two dayes after, her father, Ambrosa, Pirisмus, and all their followers arriued on *Calidon* shores: and Pagents, Drums, and Trumpets were prouided, with sweet perfumes, and Franckinsence, the streets were swetned for their passage, which greatly pleased Ambrosa: so that they suddenly arriued at Meleagars Court, where they were most sumptuously entertained with banquets, and feasting, which being done, Meleagar willing to make knowne by outward shewes, how he was possest with inward ioyes: leapt from his chaire of state, and fetcht his Daughter Titana,

na, leading her into Ambrosaes presence by the middle: Titana seing her supposed feere, fained on him a smile, and with all to grace the dimples of her cheekes, she giues them a comly and modest blush, and with a low and reuerent courtesie, she did obeysence to King Ambrosa, the which he seing, suddenly stept to her, toke her in his armes, and louingly imbrast her, with many curtious, and royall speeches, Pirisimus who had all this while markt her behauiour, blest his Fortune, and thankt the Gods for his good accesse: when he had so done, hee thought himselfe to haue most right to her, toke her aside to the further side of the Roome where he sported his blind folly, and catcht at shaddowes, yet to his hearts content, and both their Fathers increased ioy: but alas to poore Titanaes heart breaking, though she fained a smyle in her fathers presence, yet was she forst to weepe in his absence: Meleagar was so fraught with ioy, that he thought euery day a yeare that his Daughter went vnmarried, yet past he fiue daies more in keeping Ambrosa company, and shewing him the pastimes and pleasures that hee chiefely toke delight in: in the meane time he called to him his chiefe Officers, and Nobles & demaunds if all things were readie for the Nuptiall; the which they all answered, I. When Meleagar heard that, he was very ioyfull, and presently makes Ambrosa, Pirisimus, and Titana acquainted with his pretence (which was this) that on the seuēth day following, being the fiftene day of the moneth, he did purpose to accomplish the marriage betwixt Pirisimus and Titana, the which they all seemed to be very toyfull & glad of, saue onely Titana, yet she seemed no lesse then toyfull in the sight of her Father, but in her chamber she passioned whole riuers of teares from her christall eies, where weele leaue her to the fauour of the Gods, and turne to Theseus;

Who all this while, hath beene very busie, and laborious in his carefull affaires, and hauing accomplisht his business, fraught his purpose, and layd the ship ready in the Hauen, is very desirous to speake with his loue Titana, but his father being present, he could find no opportunitie fitting to make an

escape

escape forth, which breede hate full melancholly, in so much that he immured vp himselfe in his chamber, to solicit sadnesse, fortune smiling at his folly, dandled him once again on her indulgent knee: It hapned at that instant, a Noble man of Aegeus Court, riding through a Forrest, that was some eight myles distant from *Athens*, espyed a wilde Boare, and knowing the King loued the sport of hunting, as well as the one halfe of his Kingdome, came riding post to the King, and made report of his business: the King hearing him, caused sudden preparation to be made, he hauing a very faire Pallas standing in the midst of that Forrest, determined to go thither to bed that night, the which preparation being made, and all things readie, he calls for Theseus, but he had heard some inkling of his fathers hunting prograce, and how he was vpon going, fained himselfe sicke, and tooke phisicke: when word was brought to the King that Theseus could not goe, he demaunded the occasion, they answered he was not well, hee tooke phisicke. The King hearing that newes and loth to delay time, and so lose his sport, called his Nobles about him, where they mounted their Steedes, and rode towards the Forrest, where wee leaue them to their sport, and turne to Titana;

Who now hath little hope to enioy Theseus loue, for the fire dayes are almost expired, and the seuenth is the nuptiall day appointed, which was the next day following, yet being the last day of her hope, she went one morning to walke in the Garden to seeke her Theseus, bearing a sharpe Engine in her hand, determining with herselfe, that as she had made her vowes to Theseus, none should enioy her loue but Theseus: and where she did protest those vowes to Theseus, there she meant to sacrifice her blood to the Gods for Theseus sake, where wee le leaue her.

Theseus hearing his father was gone, puts on a disguised sute of apparell, and secretly conueyes himselfe forth at the Court-gates by Iuniaes meanes, determining neuer to come in againe, sends Iunia to the Hauen, where the ship lay, and

caused

cauſed him to attend his comming there; which done, hée walkes towards the Court of Melcagar, which was at that time neare adioyning to the Citie of *Athens*: hée being arriued at the Court, ſuddenly makes meanes to enter the garden: which béeing entred, he walkte to the farther ſide, where he was wont to méete his Loue Titana: hée was no ſooner approacht, but hée eſpied her where ſhée ſate, leaning her head on her hand, as though ſhée had bene a ſléepe: hée no leſſe then glad to ſée her, began to ſtep haſtily to her, but euen as he was ready to touch her, hée perceiued that ſhe was weeping and lamenting very grieuouſly to her ſelfe: breathing out her paſſions in theſe tearmes;

Ah infortunate Titana, and therefore infortunate wretch, borne vnder the deſtinies diſpleaſure, and therefore croſt with Fortunes frowns, bound to Theſeus by loue, therefore pincht with care by fate: yet Theſeus, Ah ſweet Theſeus, my dearer farre, then my ſelfe is to my ſelfe, and none ſhall diſflower mée of his virgins Roſe, except this fatall Engine; ſith proteſtations, vowes, and bonds are made, and ſealed with the ware of Loues ſweete lips, t'is Theſeus, and none but Theſeus ſhall enioy my Loue.

Theſeus, ſéeing her in that dull perplexitie, and ſo metamorphoſed, ſtood aſtonished at the ſight, and had not the power to goe backward nor forward, hée was driuen to ſuch an exigent: faine he would goe backe to loſe the ſight of ſo grieuous a proſpect, and fayner goe to her, to knowe the cauſe, and take redreſſe, yet could hée doe neither, but ſtood ſtill in a dull extaſie, halfe dead with griefe: till at the laſt ſhée remoou'd her head, and lookt vp after a mournfull faſhion, as Phillis lookt for Demophoon; and caſting aſide her blubbered eyes, ſhée eſpyed her Theſeus: ſhée roſe off the banke whereon ſhe ſat making her complaintes: threwe away her Fatall engine, tooke him about the necke and kiſt him, ſmiled, and thus beſpake him; Ah Theſeus, arte thou come to proſecute my weale or woe? (Quoth Theſeus) thy weale I hope, with harts content ſweet Loue: but I pray thee ſweet hart, what's the occaſion of theſe

thy

thy preambling passions, thus sob'd with sourcing teares: Oh faire Titana, sinister Fortune, hath cast mee into adverse perplexities: for since thou departedst from these sweete imbracements of mine, Fortune hath frowned on our pretence (quoth Theseus, how sweete Loue?) Titana fained to smyle, yet forced to weepe, thus began:

Oh Theseus, my Father sent Ambassadours to Ambrosa King of *Portugall*, to intreate a marriage betweene his Sonne Pirisimus, and thy loue Titana; his father being as willing to yeeld, as my father to demand: presently sends over his sonne Pirisimus, as a pledge of his promise, by the returne of my fathers Embassadors, and now is come himselfe to accomplish the match: when my father heard the returne of his Embassage, and saw Pirisimus, he called me to him, where he opened the whole volum of his pretence, perswading me of the Princes intire loue, his rare accomplishments, and how happie I was to enioy the loue of so rich a friend, with many such capitall perswasions; in so much that in the end, I did reply this obstinate answere: I could not loue, it was the onely thing that I did hate: with such like words, that at last he fell from kind perswasions, and fell into thundring threats, and in such franticke manner, that I durst no longer withstand him, but gaue consent, and promised to be readie whensoeuer he pleased to appoint the time, the which he was very loyfull to heare, and appointed the Nuptiall to bee the fifteenth day of this moneth, which is this next day following: yet good Theseus account not my behauiour light, though I haue promised loue to two men at once: but know this deere loue, it is but one is stedfastly to abide, the other but falsely to delude: for if I should haue stoode obstinate, and peruerse denying him; then should I haue had his perpetuall hate, and in hauing his hate, like poore Ioue with Argus should still be watcht and lookt after, that I the harder should finde opportunitie to depart with thee to *Tunis*: therefore to auoide suspition, I made him a fained promise, but still beare Theseus resting at thy commaund, and obeying as thy hand-maide ile liue and die with

thée; and with that takes him about the necke, and doth ſo pay and repay him with kiſſes, that ſhée halfe ſmothers him. Theſeus heard her politicke anſwere, bearing her wittie reply, and ſéeing her loue ſo conſtant; much commended her wit, but more pitied her griefe, deſired her to patience, and wiſhing her not to be ſo paſſionate, promiſed her that euery teare that ſhe had for him ſpent, ſhould from him returne tenne thouſand ioyes againe: and quoth Theſeus I haue prouided a ſhip, and all things neceſſarie for our paſſage, which lies readie in the hauen, and if you are readie and willing, nowe there is a fit gale of winde to tranſport vs from the *Grecian* ſhores to *Tunis*. Quoth Titana, my déere loue, it is the onely thing I deſire, through fire and water to follow thée ſwéete Theſeus. Quoth Theſeus, faire Titana, this night about the houre of twelue, I will come and méete thée héere, for then I hold it the beſt time to depart without ſuſpition of any, therefore ſwéete heart make no delaies, nether for Iewells, or rich aray, leaſt that we permitting this opportunitie, may ſtay long for the like againe, for I haue all things néedfull already prouided. Titana hearing this ioyfull tidings, was exceedingly fraught with boundleſſe ioy, thinking that euery houre before night came would prooue a yéere, in ſo much that the time being appointed, and fearefull to be eſpied in their priuate parley, after many louely enterchanges, and ſwéete eclipſed lips, they parted, where wéele leaue them a while ruminating on their enſuing fortunes, and turne to Pirrhus.

Who now is prouiding Roabs for the Nuptiall, which I doubt will prooue his funerall, yet loue being ſo vrgent with him, it caſts a miſt before the eies of his folly, in ſo much, that he thinkes euery ſmile that Titana lends him, is a promiſe of perfection: but alaſſe poore ſoule, that ſuch infancie ſhould reſt in ſuch experienced yéeres: but tis not to be marueiled at, for Cupid doth greater miracles then this ſome times, for hée forceth the bond ſlaue to loue, and blinds his eies with folly: he makes the young old, and the old become young againe; hée cleares the ageds eies, and makes the youthfull dim: therefore

blame

blame I not Pirisмus, nor yet commend him, but as hée deserues, so let fortune attribute her fauours vnto him, where wee le leaue him a spectator to his aduerse hopes, and turne to Titana:

Who being mindfull of her promise to Theseus, assone as the Court was quiet, and euery man betooke him to his rest, Titana very carefully had respect that none might sée, nor heare her, stayed till the deade time of the night, which was much about the houre that Theseus had appointed her to come: she hearing no noise, nor séeing no light throughout all the Court, hauing a doore that opened into the Garden, she secretly vnlocks it, and away she goes to the wonted place, where she finds Theseus attending her comming, and without any great circumstance tooke her by the arme, and led her forth at a backe gate that Titana had giuen him the key on before, where his man Iunia stayed his comming with his Gelding: he suddenly mounted on his horse backe, tooke Titana vp behind him, and rode to the hauen where the ship lay, which was about a mile distant from that place; he no sooner came there, but the Marriners were readie with their Cockboate to receiue them aboard: where being coucht together in a Cabbin, they past away the time in recounting their old loues, till their man Iunia came: he had no sooner boarded the ship, but the Marriners hoisting their mainsailes, weighed anchors & hailed into the deepe, where wee le leaue them to ỹ fauour of the winde and the Seas, and returne to Meleagar, and the Bridegrome Pirisмus.

The morne being come, and Phœbus saluted the day with his glorious Beames: Pirisмus starts him from the imbracements of his bed, to rouse Titana from her nightly couch; he being entred her chamber, and saw she was stirring before him and forsaken her chamber, he thus beganne:

What hungry fiend, or croaking night worme, durst bée so bold as to disturbe my Titana from her rest, till I Pirisмus gaue her the Bon Iour.

What lowing Beast, or bleating Lamb-kin, durst attempt

my loue Titanes vnreſt, before that I beſtowed the mor-nings Salutation on her.

What Sithian ſhepheard durſt be ſo bold, with his hopes and cries, to fright my Titana from her naſtie ſleepe, before I enterchanged a kiſſe with her, to imbrace this Nuptiall morne?

What *Indian* Rauens, and *Grecian* Larkes, what Ca-narie-Finch, or ſiluer Swanes durſt with their harmoniall tunes intice my loue from forth her bed before I came?

But yet me thinkes, I ſcele no hate proceede from fourth their chirping blaſts, therefore ſurely thou doſt miſconceiue them: for thy loue is gone to recreate her ſelfe in the Garden this freſh morne: and is eſpied by theſe louing creatures; and to adorne her, and her Nuptiall, they all accord, ſtriking the ſweete relaces of their conſorted tunes, to giue the heauens an Eccho of their ioy, and thy Titana the harmonie of ſo happie a day.

When he had thus paſſioned a while, he was returning forth of her chamber againe, euen as he was parting, comes Meleagar, calling haſtily for his Daughter Titana, and meeting Piriſmus, aſked him for Titana, who anſwered, ſhe was not in her chamber: Meleagar returning againe enquired, and ſent about the Court & Garden to ſeeke her, but no newes could be heard of her, in ſo much that in the end Meleagar beganne to feare ſome ill was betide her, and that ſhe had beene walking late, and ſo was taken by ſome of Aegeus men and kept priſoner: well this conceit toke ſuch effect, that he ſends Embaſſadors to Aegeus Court, to demaund the queſtion, if Titana were taken priſoner by any of his Souldiers, who had an anſwere no: returning againe, told Meleagar their anſwere: they had no ſooner deliuered their meſſage, but their comes a poſt from Aegeus Court, to demaund if they had not taken Theſeus priſoner, the which had his anſwere deliuered him, in the ſame manner, no: which done, he returnes againe. Meleagar, who thought to haue feaſted, and made a triumphant Nuptiall; nowe caſt off his ſumptuous Roabs,

and

and put on mourning weeds, and in stead of delicious feeding, imbraceth mournfull fasting: Pirismus, who fed on the beautie of Titana, as the Camelian feeds on the aire, was frantick, at this sudden ecstasie. Ambrosa from his aged eies shed many teares, to see Meleagar so grieved, and his Sonne so impatient: the guests that were invited, at this sudden change were cast into dumps, and dull perplexities, in so much that you might have past through the Court, to and fro, and hardly have heard a word spoken, but have seene many a weeping eie, which held for the space of foure daies; the fift day he caused proclamation to be made, that whosoever could but bring tidings where Titana is, or what is become of her, he would bestow a living on him worth a hundred pound a yeare, enduring his life: this being proclaimed, at that time, there was a Sailer that should have gone in the ship with them, but hee had some hindrance, hee being forth of the ship when Theseus and Titana boarded it, he staide some thing long, and Theseus and his love, thought it seven yeare till they were put from the shore, least fortune should chance to bewray their pretence, he would stay no longer, but commanded them to put off and lanch into the deepe: so that this Sailer was left behind, and hearing this great promise of the King, determined to goe instantly, and informe the King of his departure: but you must note this, hee did it more for the benefit of the living, then to certifie the King: hee being arrived at the Court, made meanes to come to the speech of the King, hee being in presence, did his dutie, and as farre as hee could hee unfolded the matter, in every point: the King hearing how it was, and that she was gone with Theseus, beganne to be in an exceeding great rage, in so much that the Sayler wisht himselfe fourth of his presence, though he never had his gift: yet the King being a noble Prince, bestowed his promise on him, and sent him away a joyfull man.

Meleagar, though he heard tidings of his Daughter, yet could it no whit perswade him to patience, but rather kindled

the hot fire of warre againſt Aegeus for a reuenge, becauſe he had but one only daughter, and ſhe to be carried away by an enemies ſonne. Aegeus miſſing his ſonne Theſeus, and hearing that he was gone with Meleagars daughter Titana, bet ſware a bloudie reuenge on Meleagar: and thus the two fathers fell into bloudy paſſions, in ſo much that all *Achaia*, *Calidon*, and *Greece* were vp in armes againſt each other, where wele them a while, and turne to Piriſmus.

Who hearing of the ingratefull departure of Titana, preſently betakes him to his chamber, where he ſate ruminating on her, and her departure with Theſeus, in ſo much that he perſwaded himſelfe neuer to returne to *Portugall* againe, ſith Titana had deceiued him: well, he being as it were halfe frantick, grew careleſſe what became of himſelfe, and in this diſcontented humour ſitting alone in his chamber, thus breathed out his paſſions:

Titanaes loue, did lend thee life,
Titanaes hate, will cauſe thy death:
Titanaes parting, hath ſharpt the knife,
That now muſt ſtop thy vitall breath.
Titana farwell, for loue I die,
As here theſe lines, will teſtifie.

WHen he had thus paſſioned a while, he drawes his fatall Engine, and ſtabs himſelfe: when Meleagar and Ambroſa were ſitting at dinner, Piriſmus was called for, but he could not be found, in the end they lookt in his chamber, where they found him moſt grieuouſly murdered: newes was preſently carried to the Kings table, who hearing of this pittious tidings, cauſed him to be brought into the preſence, and ſent for Doctors, and Surgions, but all in vaine, for he was quite gone, and paſt all recouery: they ſeeing no helpe, cauſed preparation for the funerall, which all things being in a readineſſe, thoſe neighbour Princes which were inuited to the Nuptiall, were now intreated to his funerall:

theſe

these solemne obsequies, and funerall being ended, every man tooke his leave, and departed: but Ambrosa stayed, till the beginning of the next moneth, and when the time came, he departed towards *Portugall*, with a heavier heart then he came towards *Greece*: withall, when he had taken his leave of Meleagar, he boarded the Fleete, weighed anchors, and away they cut through the darpe, where wele leave him and turne to Titana, and Theseus.

Whom fortune beginnes to sport her selfe, in their adversities, for as she had smiled on them a while, and given them a full winde fitting to transport them to the haven of their desire: so now she meant to frowne on them, and give them a Calme; when as they lay thus becalmed, fortune who loves to sport her selfe in the variable accidents of love, brought it thus to passe: certaine Gallies that were Robbers under the french King, espied this *Grecian* ship, and thinking to have some rich prize, made out, and gave onset, commanding them to yeild: the *Grecians* being calme could not make away from them, yet although so weake, Theseus stoutly denied to be boarded, and fought it out to the utmost: yet in the end they boarded the ship, and bestowed Titana and Theseus under the hatches amongst the Saylers, and then rifled the ship of all their rich Jewells: which done, they take the Saylers and caried them into the Gallies, and chained them fast, and made Galli-slaves of them, when they had so done, they take Theseus into one of the Gallies, but the chiefe commanded that they should offer no rigor at all unto him, for he saw by his behaviour, that he was of good birth and parentage, which made him the more favourable unto him. Theseus desired of the generall that he would entertaine or suffer Titana to come into the Gallie to him, and fare as he fared, they both desired, and intreated, but it could not be granted, which caused poore Titanaes eies all blubbered with teares, and almost dead for feare, and griefe, but all would not prevaile: the chiefe generall sent halfe a dousen shakerags with the ship and her to *Rome*, where they script her out of her [illegible],

and

and put her into beggers Ragges, and when they came to the shore, they gaue her three duckets and turned her off there in a strang Countrie, that she neither knew their Language, nor had she any friends there: but sith her fortune was so allotted vnto her, for her owne part she toke it very patiently, but when she called to minde her Theseus she wept bitterly, but sith there was no remedie, she meant to passe, and spend her life in Pilgrimage, where weele leaue her trauelling towards *Italie*, and turne to Theseus:

Whose chiefe solicitor is carefull griefe, for his poore loue Titana, and is forst to liue as a rouing Pirate on the seas: it hapned about fiue moneths after they chanced to meete with some Merchants of *Venice*; on whom these Pirates gaue onset, these Merchants being well prouided, breathed defiances on them, at which these Pirates toke great disdaine and discharged vpon them, the Merchants seeing that, beganne to play vpon them, Peece, after Peece, so long that in the end, they ouercame them, and toke two of their Gallies: in which two, Theseus and Iunia were Prisoners in: fortune fauouring Theseus for Titanaes sake, beare her Target of defence before him, that he escapt with life, but Iunia was slaine. when the Merchants had thus rifled the Gallies, being neere the coast of *Bohemia*, sent the Gallie-slaues, and others that were Prisoners in the Gallies, to the shores side, and let them a land to shift for themselues, then had Theseus but halfe a Ducket to buy him meate & drinke, and his cloathes were but simple Ragges God knowes, yet glad he was that he was so happily landed, but yet poore Titana, the very thought of her strake him halfe dead, he determined neuer to returne vnlesse he met with his loue Titana, but would spend his life in Pilgrimage till death claimed his right: where weele leaue him trauelling into *Germanie*, and turne to Meleagar.

Who is in the field with with troupes of Souldiers, waging warre against Egeus: but his mother enuying him, for killing her two Brothers, Plexipus, and Toxie, had sworne

on

on him to be reuenged, yet studied she a long time, and knew not how to be cruell inough in her reuenge, till in the end, she called to minde a brand that the destinies put in the fire, when she lay in child-bed of Meleagar: which brand was of this mercilesse force, and power, by the destinies charmes, that when this brand was in the fire burnt, Meleagar should consume and burne to ashes, for the destinies spunne his fatall thred at his birth day, and did put this brand in the fire, to take him the first day of his birth: but Althœa, to prevent it, tooke it forth againe, and layd it vp very charitie, till now she meant to make vse of it, as thus.

Meleagar, being in the field against Aegeus, in fierce and cruell battell, and hauing giuen an ouerthrow to Aegeus, there was great reioycing, and Bonfires made throughout al *Calidon*, with ringing Bells, and such like. Thestius Daughter seeing so much woode layde on the fire for Meleagar, and to shew her the loue they beare to the King her Sonne: she thought whilst the fire was burning to bestow one sticke on him, to shew the hate she bare to him, although she died for company with him herselfe, she cared not, so she might bee reuenged on him: after this bethought her selfe, she stepts to a chest where she safely had layd this brand, and takes it forth, and with a zeale to mischiefe, stretcht out her fatall arme, and threw it in the fire, which being done, she thus began:

Behold yee triple Goddesses
Of wrecke, yee Helhounds three:
Behold you all this furious fact,
And sacrifice of me.
I wrecke and doe against all right,
With death, must death be payde:
On mischiefe, mischiefe must be heapt,
On course, must course be layde.
Confounded let this wicked house,
With heaped sorrowes be:
Shall *Oenie* ioy his happie Sonne,

In honour for the ſee:
And *Theſties* morne bereft of his,
Nay better yet it were,
That each with other company,
In mourning you ſhould beare:
Now brothers ghoſts and ſoules new dead,
I wiſh no more, but you
To feele the ſolemne obſequies,
Which I prepare as now.

This ſayd.

She turnd away her face,
And with a trembling hand;
Did caſt amid the fire,
This death-full burning brand.

MEleagar being abſent, and buſied about his warlike affaires, thinkes not of his mothers cruelty, but following his vrgent occaſions, with very attentive care, it hapned not long after as hee was walking alone to recreate himſelfe, vpon the ſudden he felt an extreame paine in his belly, it wext more and more, inſomuch, that he did plainly perceiue that his bowells burnt with flames of ſecret fire, but yet denied he to die, but bare it out with a Princely courage, for it grieued him to die ſo cowardly without ſhedding his blood: yet death being ſo predominate, and potent ouer him, hee beganne to yéeld, and with ſighing ſobs, called on his aged father, which with age lay bedred ſeuen yeares before, and then with griefe departed; then called he on his brother, and his ſiſters, and laſtly on his mother, by this time his paine increaſed ſo extreame with the fire, that hee fell there with againe, and at that ſelfe-ſame inſtant quite extinguiſht were they both: and as his body burnt to aſhes, the glowing coales his ſpirit from him draue. Then drooped ſtately *Calidon*, both young and old did mourne, the Lords and Commons did lament,

ment, and married wiues their haire like frantickes rent from off their heads, for griefe of King Meleagars death:

The folke of *Calidon* not so sufficed, gathers the ashes of his consumed body, and entombs them vp, and makes a solemne Funerall; nay the blackest dismall day that ere was knowne in *Calidon*, or *Acchaia*, and on his Tombe, engraues an Epitaph to this effect.

The Epitaph.

Heere lies the famous King of *Calidon*,
Which for his fame the worlds mirror woone,
That *Achaian* land can say, thoug he be gonne,
Foule fall the Author, of this mothers doome:
Who passeth by, and chance these lines to read,
Curse them that causd *Meleagar* lie heere dead.

HAuing this done, euery man returnes againe to his abiding place. Aegeus hearing that Meleagar was dead, prouides a great hoast of men, and marcheth towards *Calidon*, and ouer-runnes their Campes, and puts their Souldiers to the sword, so that in a short space he gets the chiefe part of *Calidon*, and still inuades further into the Countrie, and much blood hath beene spilt, and a great deale more is like to be, but the winter being come, they haue left the field and lie now in Garison till the next spring, where wele leaue them, and turne to Titana.

Who now hath spent full foure yeares in Pilgrimage, from Countrie to Countrie, in very poore manner, and now it was her fortune to come into *Germanie*, and as she was trauelling vp into the Countrie, she chanst to come to *Fuesen*, where being

ing late, she purpost to lie there all that night, yet knowing not how to get a lodging, for she had no money, sate downe and wept bitterly: as she thus sate washing her tender cheekes, with salt brinie teares, the high Constable of *Fuesen* was passing by, and saw a young Maide sit lamenting, and wringing her hands in such grievous manner, pitied her, and demaunded of her what she was, and of whence; she answered she was a Gentlemans Daughter of *Athens*: he demanded what she made so farre from home then, and how she came there? the which she answered, that there was a young Gentleman of the same Citie that was in loue with her, and she with him, but their Parents would not give consent, whereupon we determined to transport our selues into *Spaine*, where we both haue friends, and there to enioy the fruition of our loues, as we were passing from *Greece* to *Spaine*, we met with Pirats that rifled and robbed vs of all we had, set me on land in *France*, and carried my loue away, I know not whither: and these, all these, grieues am I possest withall. The high Constable pitied her very much, asked her if she could write, and reade, she answered I, he demaunded if she could sow, she sayd I: quoth the high Constable, wilt thou be content to dwell with me, & teach my children for a yeare or two, or longer as thou shalt thinke good; Titana being wearie of trauelling, and was ashamed to goe begge, thought she could not doe better then to serue him, till she had gotten mony and clothes to her back, answered him she was very wel content, if it pleased him to except of her seruice; the which he answered very willingly with all his heart, so he caused her to follow him home, where he instantly stripts her out of ragges, and put her on good apparell, which done, she settles herselfe very closely to her needle, and teacheth his children, that in short time, she grew famous for her womanship, ciuill, modest, and Gentlewoman like behauiour, in so much that she might haue had diuers wealthy and rich marriages, onely vpon the good report that was spred abroade of her, but still she refused all, and would except of none, yet all this time she never made it

knowne,

knowne, that she was a Kings Daughter, but kept it close, neuer meaning to reueale it, but still following her businesse, with carefull diligence, where weele leaue her, and turne to Theseus:

Who being in very poore estate, is entertained by the Lands-graue of *Heston*: and hauing him space the of three yéares, greatly grew in credite with him, in so much that hee would doe nothing without the aduice of his man Pirigrino, (for so he fained his name to be) the Landſ-graue taking such an extraordinarie liking vnto him, (as truely to say the trueth, he deserued the loue of all: (neuer had any Iusts, & Turnies, but his Pirigrino should be one, I, and still did put them to the foile, whatsoeuer they were that waged against him, in so much, that in few yeares he beganne to be admired of all; not onely for his rare feats at Armes, but also for his Gentleman like accomplishments, ciuill, and modeſt behauiour: that in the end, the Landſ-graue beganne to misdoubt that hee came of some Noble desent, and by some discontent parted with his Countrie, and went as a Pilgrime to seeke his fortune: well, it hapned not long after, he toke an occasion to walke after supper, in a Garden that stode on the backe side of his Pallace, which meaning to demaunde of his man, what Countriman he was, and of what Parentage; calls for his Pirigrino, and charged him to tell him the trueth of a question hee meant to aske him. Pirigrino marueling at this sudden charge, answered thus: My dread Soueraigne, as neere as I can I will certifie you with the truth, (quoth the Graue) but this then, tell of what Parentage thou commeſt on, and what was the occasion of thy comming into this Countrie? for thou toldſt me thou wast a *Greecian* borne: (Quoth Pirigrino) my Soueraigne Lord truly so I am, and my father was a poore Gentleman, and the occasion that I came hither was this: there was a Gentlewoman dwelling in *Athens* whom I dearely loued, and so did she me, I being a younger brother, and had but small meanes to maintaine her, her friends being rich, would not giue consent at all; we hauing but little hope

to enioy the fruition of our loues in *Greece*, prouided a little Barke to tranſport our ſelues into *Spaine*, which being done, as we were paſſing the Ocean, there came certaine Pirates that were rouing on the Sea, and tooke vs, and robbed vs of all that we had; this done, they ſent my loue away, towards the coaſt of *France*, and clapt me into a Gally, where I was forſt to wannange an Oare, till I was releaſt by a Venetian Marchant, who landed me on the coaſt of *Bohemia*, and I purpoſing to ſpend my life in Pilgrimage, wandring vp and downe, it was my fortune to come hither, where I fortunatly happned into your ſeruice; he thus ending his ſpæch wept very bitterly. The Lanſ-graue being very ſorry to ſée him wæpe and lament ſo bitterly, demaunded the occaſion of his paſſions, who anſwered the loſſe of his loue. Quoth the Landſ-graue, come leaue off this womaniſh wæping, and remaine with me, and thou ſhalt neuer want for any thing ſo long as I am able to giue thæ: well after theſe and ſuch like words, they departed to their reſt.

At that inſtant, there was attendant in the houſe of Alphonſus the Landſ-graue, a young Gentlewoman whoſe name was Impio, this Gentlewoman came of very good Parentage, ſhe wiſhly viewing, and noting the excellencie of Pirigrinos face, preſently falls in loue with him, but hauing but ſmall acquaintance, could not tell how to vnfolde her minde vnto him, but this ſhe paſt the time, for the ſpace of halfe a yære, and could find no time nor place fitting for to diſcloſe her loue: till at laſt ſhæ watcht him when hæ went to walke in the Garden alone, and lightly ſkips after him, he eſpieing her comming after him, returnes againe and met, giuing her the time of the day, and ſhe the like to him againe, ſo that in the end there paſt and repaſt many queſtions betwæne them: in ſo much that at laſt my young Gentlewoman miſtriſſe Impio, grew ſo impudent with loue, that ſhe could briole her paſſionate affection no longer, but deſired him to ſit downe on a græne banke that was by them, for ſhe ſold him that ſhe had good newes to tell him, he being no leſſe then willing

ling to heare good newes, according to her desire he sate downe, where suddenly she sate downe by him, where she declares the whole volume of her minde vnto him. Pirigrino hearing her so passionate in her termes, wondred much at these sodaine accidents, or what should be the occasion that should provoke her to such inordinate teares, which in his conceit ouerflowed the bounds of modestie, yet would he not secure to reiect her for her folly, but mildly perswaded her to be content and pacifie herselfe with patience, for he was already promised, yet did he humbly thanke her for her good will, but graunt her marriage he could not: yet she would not be so answered, but began to prosecute it fresh againe, and like Venus, when she wood Adonis, strone with him for a kisse, in so much that he ashamed of her folly, flung away from her; Impio seeing him gone, meant not to let him goe so, but on the next morning, she goes to his chamber, and in the like manner begins againe. Pirigrino seeing her, and hearing her in her old tune, would not stay, but flings from her in an angrie sorte; yet she would not giue him ouer nor let him rest, but still would her troubling and molesting him, in so much, that in the end, her told her of her immodestie very sharply, and told her, that if she came any more troubling him with the like matter againe, he would declare her name to his Lord Aphonsus. Impio hearing this bestie checke, and rebuke of Pirigrino whom she loued so dearely, turned now her loue to hate, and as in former time she had sought meanes to get his loue, so now ten times more busie she was, to seeke meanes to destroy his life: Pirigrino whō fortune had turned her wheele so oft n with frowns and smiles, meant once more, to cast him into aduerse perplexities, & for the better conueyance of it, she brought it thus to passe.

At that instant there lay in *Fuesen* one of the Empresse of *Germanie*, whom had to Daughter a very faire, and proper young Gentlewoman: this Virgin being knowne to the Duke of *Broonsweeke*, and he having but one onely Son thought it a good match for him, being resolued in this opinion, very spee-

dily

dily ſends Embaſſadors to this Emperour, to entreate a marriage betweene his Sonne, and his Daughter; the which the Emperor, being very willing, told them withall his heart, and bad them, pray him to come and accompliſh it aſſoone as he could, for his buſines would be ſo vrgent with him ſhortly, that he ſhould hardly attend their comming elſe, they receiued their anſwere, and haſted backe to the Duke their Maiſter, where they made report of their Embaſſage, when the Duke heard ſuch ioyfull tidings, with all expedition, he cauſed preparation for the Nuptiall, which being all finiſht, and all things readie, they take their Journie to the Emperours Court, being then in *Fneſen*. The Emperour hearing they were comming; inuited diuers of the chiefe of *Germanie*, to the Nuptiall: whereof Alphonſus, the Landſ-graue of Heſſen amongſt the reſt was one: well, within few daies after the Duke of *Broonſweeke* arriued at the Emperors Court in *Fneſen*, this Nuptiall day being paſt, and their royaltie ended, euerie man taking his leaue of the Emperor departed, onely the Duke of *Broonſweeke*, the Landſ-graue of *Heſton*, and their followers.

It hapned in a ſhort time after, Pirigrino being chiefe attendant on Alphonſus; and Impio on his faire Lady: fortune beganne to turne her wheele and raiſe an aduerſe fate, on poore ſubmiſſiue Pirigrino, in this manner: this wicked luſt ſulphering Impio, whoſe heart was fraught with burning hate, had long ſtudied how ſhe might bring him to diſgrace, or take his life from him, becauſe he did reiect her, for her folly: in ſo much that in the end, ſhe agreed thus; for to inuite him to her chamber to Dinner, where if ſhe could obtaine loue at his hands, it was as much as ſhe deſired, otherwiſe ſhe meant to crie out, and ſay he woulde rauiſh her, and ſo by that meanes bee reuenged on him: ſhe being profoundly grounded on this hellish pretence, thought it long ere ſhe were acting it: yet ſhe conſidered this, that if ſhe ſhould doe ſo, hauing no witnes of it, it was but her I, and his no: and ſhe ſaw that he was ſo in fauour, that he ſhould be beleeued before

fore her, therefore to bring her matter the better to passe, she hires a young man, and gives him fiftie crownes to come and sweare against him: when she was thus prouided of a witnesse, she inuites Pirigrino to come the next day to Dinner: He thinking no hurt, nor imagined not the mischiefe she pretended to him, very courteously thanked her, and saide he would make bold to trouble her: with this answere she returned, and called this young man to her, and tolde him where he should stand to heare her, when she called him; and what he should say: well, this being done, on ỳ next day according to promise, Pirigrino came to dinner, where they sate all alone, and were very merry all the Dinner time, when they had sufficiently alayd the hunger of there stomackes, she take away the table her selfe, and had none to attend her at all, which made Pirigrino muse much thereat, when she had thus taken away, and set things in order, she came to Pirigrino, and beganne her wonted tune againe, and againe, but still he denied her; yet would she take it for no answere, but still importuned him for loue, in so much that he beganne to be very angrie with her, and beganne to goe forth of her chamber: she seing no hope to obtaine loue of him, she sware she would haue his life: she steps to him againe, and thus he left him Thou faire faced Pirigrino, canst thou denie a Wench that comes of gentle blood, no baskall nor runnagate, but bred and borne in gentilitie: therefore reade in the margent of my browes and thou shalt see that thy birth is not equivolent with mine; thou knowest how my Lord & Master entertained thee but the other day, as a Pilgrime that meant to spend his life in Pilgrimage, and wilt thou reiect me that am a Gentlewoman of good account? no, no, Pirigrino; remember thy selfe what thou wert when thou camst hither, and reiect Impio loue. Pirigrino hearing her so intollable in this vaine attempt, began to wrest away from her, whereupon she cried out, helpe, helpe; he will ravish me: with that steps in the young man that she had appointed to beare false witnesse against him, and cries out for helpe too; which suddenly came running in diuers of the Court, and layd hands on him, and neuer was carried to the Land-grave, and the Emperour, of Pirigrinoes fact: Alphonsus very sorrie to heare this tidings, yet would not seeke to excuse him, but suffered him to goe to prison, where he lay for the space of fiue daies, the seuenth, according to the order of their Law, he was had in examination; & for the

ter himſelfe, that he ſhould haue no wrong: but when he heard how enioemly the matter was proued againſt him, by this yong fellowes meanes, that came in, and ſware directly againſt him, he was very ſorry, and faine would haue ſpoake for him, but that it was a fact that was ſo heinous, & not be forgiuen, there Lawes were ſo ſtrickt againſt it, when he had thus conſidered with himſelfe, the greatneſſe of the offence & the ſeuerneſſe of their Law, he held his tongue and ſuffered the Law to paſſe on him, which ouerthrew him, and the ſentence of death was pronounſt againſt him, that the next market day, their ſhould be in the midſt of the market place, a ſtake erected; vnto which ſtake, he muſt be bound faſt with Iron-chaines, and ſo done, fire kindled about him, and ſo burne to death: the Law hauing thus paſt on him, and the ſentence of death pronounſt againſt him, they carried him backe to priſon, vntill the next market day, in the meane while they made ready the ſtake and ſet it in the midſt of the market, and when the day came, according to there order they brought him to the place of execution, where was gathered together, two or three hundred to ſee him executed; hee was ſo beloued that there was many a weeping eie for him, and cried out to the Shrieffes, ſaying it was great pittie ſo braue a man ſhould die for ſo ſmall an offence, yet they could not doe withall, but cauſed him to be tied to the ſtake, which done, they layde ſtraw and faggets about him, and were kindling the fire about him; yet did he ſmile and laugh on the people, and prayed them to pray for him, the which they did all very hartily, he prouided himſelfe to die: euen as the fire was kindling, there came riding by a Knight of *Athens* by chance, as he was trauelling into *France*, eſpying a multitude of people gathered togither, turnes his horſe head and rides to the place to ſee the occaſion, when he came neere to the place, and ſeeing a man bound faſt to the ſtake, beganne to looke very earneſtly on him, in ſo much that in the end, he beganne to perſwade himſelfe that it was Theſeus: thruſts in amongſt the people & thus ſpake, (Prince Theſeus) Theſeus ſuddenly lookt vp marueiling who was that which knew his name ſo perfectly, looking on this Knight called him to minde, and anſwered Horatio. Quoth he the Knight Horatio, for ſo was his name: my Noble Leige, what make you here thus bound with chaines ſo neere your death. Quoth Theſeus I haue beene falſely accuſed, & now condemned to die. Horatio intreated the Shrieffes to hold backe the

he was, for he is a Kings Son, & falsely accused. The Sheriffes although they were to have done the execution by an houre, yet for the love they bore to him, they puld backe the fire: Horatio gallopt to the Emperor, & tolde him in few words that he knew not what, to put a kings Sonne to death upon a false accusation, with such, and such like words, he roughly bespake ỳ Emperor, without all feare or reverence: in so much, that the Emperor sent some of his chiefe attendants with his private Signet to fetch him againe, to heare the matter more plainely proved: the whilst they went to fetch him, Horatio declared what he was and the occasion of his departure from his owne Country. Quoth Alphonsus he tolde me that was the occasion of his departure, but he tolde me he was a Gentleman, and a younger brother: by this time, the Emperors men came to the place of execution, where they declared his will and shewed the Sheriffes, the Emperors Signet for a signe and token they should bring him to the Emperors Court: when they saw the Signet, they knew it was the Emperors will he should be brought, then they caused him to be untied, which when the people heard it, there was such casting up of hats, hooting & rejoycing, as though Heaven and Earth would have gone together: when he came to the Court he was examined againe of this matter, the which he utterly denied, whereupon the fellow was called againe, that came in against him, and demanded if this man were guiltie or no; he answered I. The Emperor would not believe him so, but would make a farther triall of it, sends presently for a Racke, to racke him, till he tolde ỳ truth: assoone as the Racke came, the very feare, & sight of the Rack, made him fall on his knees & confesse all: telling how Impio did hire him to do it & gave him fiftie Crownes. The Emperor and the Landgraue hearing this, sends for Impio, who hearing ỳ her knavery was come out, gets her into her chamber, where she suddenly strangles her selfe, with a Towell: she being found there dead in this manner, they were all very sorry, and desired Theseus to pardon their hastie & rash Judgement, the which he freely pardoned: this being past ỳ Emperor, & the Landgraue intended to accompany Theseus into *Greece*, & command a Fleete of ships to be prepared for this Voyage. this newes being bruted about, that Pirigrino was a kings Sonne & of *Greece*: in so much, that in ỳ end it came to Titanaes eare, who was halfe perswaded ỳ it was her Theseus, well yet she could not be quiet in minde till she saw him: the next day she made an excuse to goe forth, & goes to the Emperors Court. and

ing him directly, but stood still & looke on him, & he did the like on her, till at last Theseus sayd Titana: when she heard him say so, she stept to him, & with ioy she wept & ẏ like did he, yet like two Turtle Doues they swaetly bild each other, when they had thus done, they made it knowne to the Emperor & Alphonsus, that she was King Meleagars daughter, & she was she, that ẏ Pirates tooke from him: this newes bred more admiration, and more in *Fuesen*: this being past, the ships ready and all things prouided; the Emperor cloaths them in very rich aray and causeth them to board the Nauie, who did accompany them the Emperor, the Duke of *Broonsweeke*, the Landſ-graue of *Hesten*, and diuers other knights, and Gentlemen of good account and reckoning; which being a full winde suddenly arriued in *Athens*. The King Egeus seeing such a Fleete of goodly ships comming began to misdoubt the worst, and sent out a Pinnis to see what they were, and to what intent they came: which returned him this answere; and shall please your Highnes, there is the Emperor of *Germanie*, the Duke of *Broonsweeke*, the Landſ-graue of *Heston* and your Prince Theseus. Aegeus hearing that, neere stayd to call any to attend him, neither to put on his Cloake; but ran to meete them, without Hat or Cloake. His Sonne Theseus comming formost in the Troop, when he saw his Father, fell down on his knees: the aged King stooped and tooke him vp in his armes and wept bitterly for ioy, hauing so done, he salutes Titana, and the rest in the courteousest manner he could deuise. The Citizens hearing of their comming againe to shewe their ioy, made Bonfires, & showes, with Bells ringing throughout all the Cittie: the Courtiers and Knights, appointed Iusts, and Turnies, to signifie their willing minds, gratifying the Kings fortunate hap. Aegeus hearing of his Son Theseus aduerse haps since he departed from him; thought now to accomplish his ioy, caused preparation for the Nuptial, which being done, & twenty daies fully expired in solemne feasting: the Emperor, the Duke, and the Landſ-graue with their followers, tooke their leaue & departed. Aegeus sent for his men that were in ẏ field against the Achaians, & Calidons, proclaimed a finall peace, & Crowned Theseus King of these three Kingdomes, hauing this done, & finisht all things as he could wish, he gaue his Son charge of the well gouerning his estate, to keepe the hearts of his commons; after these & such like words he died, euen with ouer ioying himselfe at Theseus returne: his father being dead, causead funerall to be made, which done his father intombed & his sorlowe

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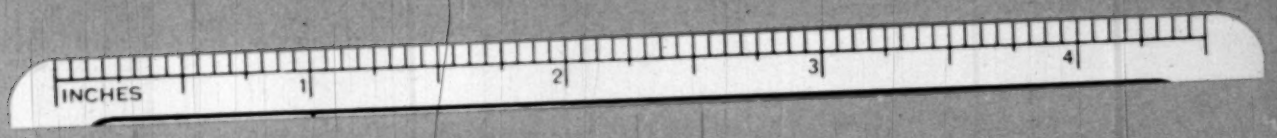
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